

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TEL AV 02301 040740Z
ACTION AID-59

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 SSM-03 EB-08 IGA-02 INR-07
CIAE-00 DODE-00 /090 W
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FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5534
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PASS TO AID/NE/ME

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EAID, PFOR, IS
SUBJECT: VOLAG OPERATIONS IN THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES

REFS: (A) STATE 57118; (B) TEL AVIV 1730; (C) TEL AVIV
1549

1. LOCAL ANERA REP HAS INFORMED US THAT GONNEN, MFA REPRESENTATIVE TO THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE TERRITORIES, TOLD HIM THAT AS FAR AS MFA IS CONCERNED PAMPHLET INCIDENT IS CLOSED. NEXT STEP IS FOR ANERA REP TO DISCUSS PROJECT APPROVAL WITH MINISTRY OF SOCIAL WELFARE (MSW), WHICH HE WILL DO WHEN HE RETURNS FROM VACATION ABOUT MID-APRIL.

2. REGARDING ISSUES RAISED IN REFS B AND C, LOCAL REPRESENTATIVE OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION (CDF), CDF'S REGIONAL ADVISOR, AND CDF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR DAVID GUYER HELD SEPARATE MEETINGS WITH GONNEN AND MSW DEPUTY DG AVITZUR ON MARCH 30. IN THE MEETING WITH GONNEN, THEY WERE TOLD THAT AS THE RESULT OF THE PROBLEMS WHICH HAVE ARISEN, MFA IS CONDUCTING A STUDY OF THE ROLE OF VOLAGS IN THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES. LATER, WITH AVITZUR, CDF

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OFFICIALS STATED THAT THEY ARE SUSPENDING PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION AND SPENDING OF AID FUNDS PENDING COMPLETION OF THE MFA REVIEW.

3. NONE OF THE OUTSTANDING ISSUES (SUCH AS HIRING OF LOCAL GAZAN STAFF BY CDF) WAS RESOLVED AT THESE MEETINGS. CDF TOLD AN EMBOFF, WHO ATTENDED PART OF THEIR MEETING

WITH AVITZUR, THAT IF THEY ARE NOT IN POSITION TO HIRE THEIR OWN LOCAL STAFF AND DIRECT THEM WITHOUT INTERFERENCE, CDF WILL NOT BE ABLE TO IMPLEMENT PROGRAM AS AGREED UPON IN GRANT AGREEMENT WITH AID.

4. WITH REGARD TO THE MFA STUDY, GONNEN TOLD US THAT MFA, IN CONSULTATION WITH THE MSW, MILITARY GOVERNMENT, AND OTHER RELEVANT MINISTRIES, PLANS TO WORK OUT AGREED CRITERIA TO AVOID FRICTION IN VOLAG OPERATIONS. HE SAID THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE VARIOUS PARTIES ARE MORE COSMETIC THAN SUBSTANTIVE, AND HE EXPECTS THAT CRITERIA FOR VOLAG OPERATIONS CAN BE AGREED WITHIN THE NEXT FEW WEEKS.

5. COMMENT: GIVEN GONNEN'S EXPERIENCE IN DEVELOPMENT WORK IN AFRICA (WHICH MAY MAKE HIM SYMPATHETIC TO THE POSITION OF THE VOLAGS) AND THE POSITIVE ATTITUDE HE HAS SHOWN ON THIS SUBJECT, WE BELIEVE HIS INVOLVEMENT MAY PROVE TO BE A POSITIVE FACTOR. ON THE OTHER HAND, AVITZUR CONTINUES TO SHOW VERY LITTLE FLEXIBILITY. WHILE WE ARE NOT CONVINCED THAT GOI INTENDS "TO TAKE CONTROL OF VOLAG PROGRAMS IN THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES", AS SUGGESTED BY ANERA (REF A), WE ARE CONCERNED THAT THE CURRENT MFA STUDY MAY RESULT IN SOME HARDENING OF GOI POLICY. GUIDANCE PROMISED PARA 5 REFTEL A WOULD BE APPRECIATED.
DUNNIGAN

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Case Number: n/a
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